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REDUCE YOUR RISK OF
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INFECTION
Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
Cover nose and mouth when coughing with tissue or flexed elbow
Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
SOUTHERN STAR

India's COVID-19 fight people-driven: Modi

PM in his 'Mann Ki Baat' warns against negligence; appeals 'janata' to give up public-spitting habit

New Delhi, Apr. 26 (UNI)- Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address to the nation in the 64th edition of his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat' this morning said India's fight against Coronavirus is people-driven. "Be it in cities or a village, everywhere we can see people getting involved in this fight against the pandemic," he said.

In the 63rd episode of 'Mann Ki Baat', Modi had focused on the situation in the country due to COVID-19. The Prime Minister had on Mar. 24 announced a 21-day nationwide lockdown as a precautionary measure to arrest the spread of the pandemic. The lockdown was later extended till May 3.

Taali, thaali and diya

"People of our country are fighting this war with the administration... We are also fighting poverty... I am proud that all of us are part of it... All of us are soldiers in this fight. When people talk about this period they will talk about our people-driven initiatives. Our 'taali, thaali and diya' initiatives have kept spirits high," the PM said.

"Our farmers are working day and night in their fields to ensure that no one goes hungry... there are people who are giving up rents and there are people who are giving up their pension. I bow and respect the 130 crore people of this country for what they are doing during this time."

(See MODI on page 6)

No vegetable shandy at M.G. Road Market

Marketplace temporarily shifted to Dasara Expo premises

Mysuru, Apr. 26 (RK&BCT)- The M.G. Road Vegetable Market will be shifted to Dasara Exhibition from tomorrow, Apr. 27. An order to this effect was passed by Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde yesterday. The Market will be shifted following complaints of vendors and buyers not following social distancing amidst COVID-19 epidemic.

It may be recalled here that Mysuru District Minister S.T. Somashekar had directed the MCC to shift the M.G. Road Market to the sprawling Dasara Exhibition premises, where a market is already functioning post lockdown.

At a meeting held recently, MLAs S.A. Ramdas and L. Nagendra had drawn the attention of the Minister regarding unhygienic practices at the M.G. Road Market that could prove dangerous amid COVID-19 outbreak. There was even a social media campaign over unhygienic conditions of the M.G. Road Market where Mysureans had posted that if not shut, the Market will turn a disease hotspot.

The MCC Commissioner's order states that the Market will be shifted till the lockdown measures are in force. Separate arrangements have been made in the Dasara Exhibition venue and individual boxes have been created for the vendors to market their produce under shade and on the concrete ground. Vendors can even go to the temporary market set up at Lalitha Mahal Grounds and occupy the remaining vacant spots.

(See MARKET on page 6)

Kodagu relaxes lockdown rules

Madikeri, Apr. 26 (UNI)- With no fresh cases of Novel Coronavirus reported from Kodagu District, the authorities have relaxed the lockdown guidelines, bringing relief to the people. For emergency and farming activities, the District Administration has laid a few conditions. Amid the relaxation, the prohibitory orders will continue. The timings for the purchase of essential commodities have been changed.

Instead of 6 am to 12 noon for purchase of fruits and groceries, the District Administration has extended the timings from 6 am to 2 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, said DC Annies Kanmani Joy.

However, gathering of large number of people and moving unnecessarily is prohibited. A minimum of one metre distance should be maintained while standing in a queue to purchase essential commodities. The relaxation should not be misused, she added.

(See KODAGU on page 6)

Giraffe 'Yadunandan' makes his way to Bannerghatta Biological Park from Mysuru Zoo amidst lockdown

Will be paired with 'Gowri' who was shifted in 2018

Mysuru, Apr. 26 (MTY&KS)- Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, popularly known as Mysuru Zoo, which had successfully shifted 14-month-old giraffe 'Chamarajendra' to Assam State Zoo-cum - Botanical Garden at Guwahati by road (3,200 km) in December last year, has now shifted 17-month-old 'Yadunandan' to Bannerghatta Biological Park in Bengaluru. 'Yadunandan' will be paired with 'Gowri' who was shifted from Mysuru Zoo in 2018.

'Yadunandan' is the son of 'Krishnaraja' and 'Bubbly' of Mysuru Zoo and was selected to be paired with 'Gowri' who was alone at Bannerghatta.

The process of conditioning 'Yadunandan' for the journey was undertaken and the animal was acclimatised to the special enclosure. Care was also taken so that the animal does not panic inside the cage while being transported. Zoo employees, who have acclimatised the animal with the special container, have similar experience of transporting giraffes by road.

A total of nine Zoos come under Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK), among which Mysuru Zoo and Bannerghatta Biological Park are the important ones. It is from these two places animals and birds are being given.

Training since three months: The special container was placed in the Giraffe's enclosure in Mysuru Zoo and was being given training since three months so that he gets used to it. As it is very difficult to get a Giraffe inside the container for shifting it, fodder was placed inside the container to attract 'Yadunandan.'

On Friday, Yadunandan went inside the container and the Zoo staff locked him in and with the help of a crane, placed the container on a low floor - long-chassis truck, which transported 'Yadunandan' to Bannerghatta safely.

All four District Administrations extended co-operation

It was a challenge for us to transport the tallest animal on road safely and successfully. But our staff had the experience of shifting a Giraffe to Assam on Road. As the truck carrying the Giraffe had to pass through four districts to reach Bannerghatta Biological Park, especially during the lockdown period, the co-operation of Mysuru, Mandya, Ramanagar and Bengaluru Rural district administrations was sought. Even the Police Department extended their co-operation following which 'Yadunandan' was transported to Bannerghatta safely, said Ajit M. Kulakarni, Executive Director, Mysuru Zoo.

Grocery kits distributed to tribals at Nagarahole

Mysuru, Apr. 26 (MTY& BNR)- In the presence of Forest Department staff, grocery kits were distributed to indigenous tribal families, residing in various hamlets (haadi) amidst the dense forests of Nagarahole, which have been hit hard by the lockdown.

As a few haadis fall under Antharasanthe Zone of Nagarahole Tiger Reserve forest, except Forest Department staff, no one is allowed to venture into the place. Also, these haadis, which have to be reached through a narrow road connecting the Main Road, have no basic infrastructure too.

In this backdrop, the tribal families who are in distress with no means of food, were provided with grocery kits in the presence of Wildlife Warden Kritika Alanahalli and Forest Department staff.

The grocery kits were distributed to 270 most marginalised families of Golur, Anemala, Mavinamoole, Mooleuru, Muchur, Thimmanahosalli, Seebehalli hamlets. Each grocery kit consisted of 5-kg of rice, 1 kg each of dal, salt and sugar, 1 litre of cooking oil, tea and sambar powder, biscuit and soap.

Speaking on the occasion, Wildlife Warden Kritika Alanahalli, said: "Many come forward to help poor families living in cities and towns but those living in forest areas are being ignored. Though organisations come forward to provide help, they have to overcome many legal obstacles. Hence, with the support from a few organisations, groceries were distributed to 270 families."

Stating that many in these haadis worked as daily wagers at Kerala and hence, do not possess Ration Cards, she said that a list of such families has been submitted to Taluk Administration.

She also urged those willing to help these hamlets, may handover grocery kits to the office of the Antharasanthe Range Forest Officer (RFO).

VOICE OF THE READER

Online property tax collection: Why this delay by MCC?

Sir,

Even after much hype starting from the past 6 months we have been hearing and reading that property tax collection will be made online from 1st April 2020.

We have also read that loading of data is completed and trials are on.

What is the delay in implementing? Why Mysore City Corporation (MCC) is not interested in collecting tax online? Is it just a gimmick employed to drain tax-payer's money?

Surely, MCC Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner are answerable for this delay.

— A. V. Prasanna
on e-mail

Mysuru
24.4.2020

INS seeks two-year tax holiday for Newspaper establishments

Print Media has lost Rs. 4,000-5,000 crore in 2 months, says Indian Newspaper Society

New Delhi, Apr. 26- In a second letter to Information and Broadcasting Secretary Ravi Mittal, Indian Newspaper Society (INS) President Shailesh Gupta has urged the Government to immediately announce a two-year tax holiday for Newspaper establishments and to increase official advertisement rates and budget spending on the sector.

"The print media has already lost Rs. 4,000-4,500 crore in the last two months with economic activities collapsing due to COVID-19. I hereby urge you to immediately settle payment towards outstanding bills of advertising from Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC) as well as advise various State Governments to do so," the letter stated.

It may be recalled here that Shailesh Gupta had shot off a letter to Ravi Mittal on Apr. 14 urging the Centre to announce an urgent stimulus package for the print industry amid the crisis it is facing with the outbreak of COVID-19. He had demanded total removal of 5 percent customs duty on newsprint, two-year tax holiday for newspaper establishments, 50 percent increase in advertisement rate of BOC and 100 percent increase in budget spend for print media.

"There is hardly any revenue coming in from either advertising or circulation and the newspaper industry is worst affected. Since economic activity has nearly collapsed and there is no likelihood of advertising from private sector, the losses are expected to continue at the same rate for the next 6-7 months (implying an additional loss of Rs. 12-15,000 crore over the next 6-7 months) unless a strong stimulus is implemented by the Government at the soonest," Gupta said in his second letter.

The losses already incurred have had "very severe repercussions" for 30 lakh workers — 9-10 lakh directly employed and 18-20 lakh indirectly employed, he said. "For last several weeks, due to severe losses and choking of cash flows, the newspaper establishments are finding it very difficult to even disburse salaries to employees and payments to their vendors," Gupta said.

The letter highlighted that newsprint accounts for 40-60 percent of the total cost and the removal of 5 percent customs duty on newsprint will have no impact on domestic manufacturers or any 'Make in India' efforts, as there is no domestic production of uncoated glazed and light-weight coated papers below 70 gsm.

"The imposition of custom duty on these grades does not offer any support to domestic industry and only burdens the publishers," Gupta said adding that newsprint consumption in India is estimated at 2.5 million tonnes and India has the capacity to produce only one million tonnes.

"Hence, more than 50 per cent demand has to be necessarily met through imports. Most of the indigenous newsprint capacity is of swing in nature, which allows the manufacturers to shift to other paper grades on the basis of demand and price," he said.

He said the quality of newsprint is very important as the editions are generally closed at midnight, which leaves only 3-4 hours for printing.

Kodagu-origin doctor receives 'Drive of Honour' in US

Mysuru, Apr. 26 (BCT)- While doctors and healthcare workers combating COVD-19 pandemic saving millions of lives continue to be attacked in India, certain Indian doctors, who are doing similar job in the United States, are getting publicly recognised, honoured and thanked for their noble profession and for saving them from the clutches of death.

The first was Mysuru-origin Dr. Uma Madhusudan who received a unique 'Drive of Honour', a heart-warming gesture recently to appreciate her efforts in fighting the global Coronavirus pandemic where several Police vehicles, fire brigade trucks and private vehicles went past by her house with sirens and honks blowing and stopping by for a few seconds, thanking her.

Next it was Dr. Keekanamada Preethi Subramani, a Kodagu-origin doctor who works at Saint Francis Hospital and conducted COVID-19 tests, to be recognised for her extraordinary service of treating COVID-19 patients in South Windsor in the United States. A convoy of 100 vehicles blaring horns and sirens drove past her house, thanking her. The videos of people waving at her from vehicles and her waving back at them have gone viral.

Incidentally, Dr. Preethi lives in the same residential layout where Dr. Uma resides in South Windsor, Connecticut. Dr. Preethi lives with her husband Keekanamada Subramani.

Dr. Preethi graduated in Medicine from M.S. Ramaiah Medical College in Bengaluru and migrated to the US in 1999. She is currently working at St. Francis Hospital in South Windsor. Replying to this unique felicitation, Dr. Preethi said that she accepts the honour with all humility.

She is the daughter of Mundanda Rajappa and Jayanthi, residents of Nelaji village near Napoklu. Rajappa was the first player to represent Kodagu district in the State Ranji cricket team. He is currently based in Bengaluru. He told newsmen that he was proud of his daughter's work.

Dr. Preethi's spouse Subramani hails from Birunani village in South Kodagu. The couple has two children – Nikitha and Nikhil.

COVID awareness through Animation

Union Minister Piyush Goyal releases AUM Animation Studios' video 'Choti Chethana' online

Mysuru, Apr. 26 (RKB& BNR)- Easy flow of nothing is possible with lockdown-implementing barricades blocking all the routes. But awareness has to find its way out to reach every nook and corner. The awareness about deadly COVID-19 pandemic.

We have seen variety of media through which awareness is being created — While some held pen to write about it, some took to paintbrush; Few sang, another group of people danced; At some point, Policemen were seen requesting people by folding hands to understand the situation and stay at home, at the worst case, the same men in khaki were even seen wielding lathi, everything for the safety of public.

Now, AUM Animation Studios Pvt. Ltd., Mangaluru, has come up with a one-and-a-half minute animated video which will speak about the necessity of lockdown and about respecting Corona Warriors. Brother of MLA S.A. Ramdas, S.A. Shrikanth Das is the Managing Director of this Studios and his wife Prathibha Shrikanth is the Director.

In this animated Hindi video, which is another way of apprising people on lockdown guidelines in the cutest way possible, comes a little girl, called Choti Chethana, who addresses Prime Minister Narendra Modi as Modi uncle and speaks about the hardship of Corona Warriors like Doctors, Nurses, Police, Pourakarmikas and many others who are working for our well-being. In another video, she also tells about the seven commandments Modi listed out during his address to the Nation on the lockdown extension, which is to be followed by everyone during the lockdown.

Union Minister of Railways and Commerce Piyush Goyal, released the video online on Apr.24 by tweeting in Hindi as follows: "Even the little girl Chethana knows we have to accept social distancing and doing that would be of help to Corona Warriors to carry out their works. Come let's obey this little girl Chethana's words, strictly follow the lockdown guidelines and stay safe."

It may be noted that Andy Pirki, the slapstick comedy animated television series, is also produced by AUM Animation Studios.

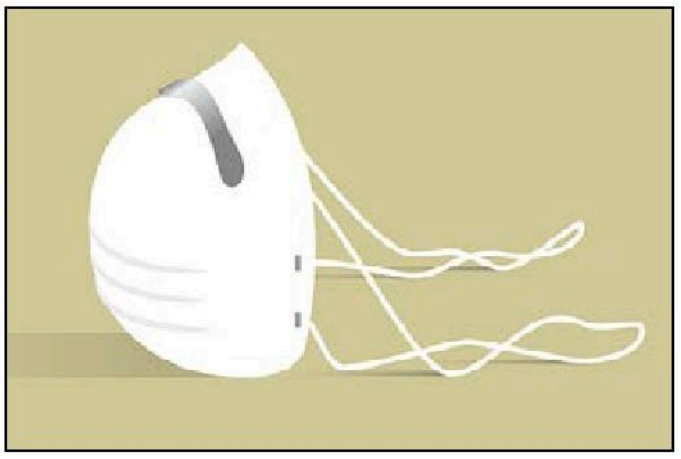
Animation has become an effective means of conveying any message. Hence, we made an attempt to create awareness through this medium.

— S.A. Shrikanth Das,
Managing Director, AUM Animation Studios

IN BLACK & WHITE

Vikram Muthanna

Positivity & Filth = Happiness & Health ?



A few days ago the Head of Shanghai's COVID-19 clinical expert team, Zhang Wenhong noticed something about the Indian people after watching a religious gathering on TV where the devotees were not wearing masks or practicing social distancing. He said, "Indians may not be physically immune to the pandemic but they are mentally immune." Just when we thought he was mocking us he added, "Indians have their peaceful mind."

May be, Dr. Wenhong is mistaking our "overly optimistic mind" for a "peaceful mind." Or may be, what we Indians have is a "survivalist mindset." Like we saw with the migrant workers, who in the absence of an effective Governmental Social Security System, switched on their 'survival mindset' and rain, pain or no train, they left to their villages.

Most Indians, along with this "survival mindset" also have this skewed, optimistic attitude of "dek te hai kya hota hai"… " we'll see what happens." Now the question is, will this brazen "optimism" help us in our fight against COVID? Will it bolster our immunity?

A 2017 article in 'The New York Times' states that "cockeyed optimism," may actually improve health and extend life. It seems what happens in the brain influences what happens in the body. And when facing a health crisis, actively cultivating positive emotions can boost the immune system. It further states that, "there is indisputable link between having a positive outlook and health benefits like lower blood pressure, less heart disease, better weight control and healthier blood sugar levels."

What! Positive outlook produces healthier blood sugar levels and weight control? We have to take this report with a pinch of salt because when we Indians are happy our blood sugar levels and weight both go out of control, along with generous helpings of Ladoos, Mysore Pak and Shahi Tukra.

Indeed it is good to have a positive attitude and a happy disposition, but before we go out laughing like crazies or start being irritatingly chirpy, or worse, become so optimistic in life that you become "blind to pragmatism," we must make place for negative thoughts in our life, it helps us be prepared.

Just blindly believing that if we are positive we will not fall sick, will give us a severe mental blow if we do get sick. We may become depressed and indecisive as we are still reeling in disappointment, panic and fear.

Oscar Wilde said, "We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars." Indeed we need to look at the stars and be positive, but we must not forget that we are still in the gutter, and that we must find a way to get out of it. As someone put it, realistic pessimism beats deluded optimism.

Apart from our "overly optimistic attitude" some say our immune system is better than the western world. This because we are more exposed to a variety of microbes.

According to some researchers, the western nations' more 'hygienic' environment and rampant use of antibiotics has affected their exposure to a diverse array of microbes leaving their immune system unprepared. They say this is the reason allergies are increasing in the developed world.

On the other hand they say, there is evidence of decreased allergy prevalence in developing countries. And they say this is so because in developing countries children usually do not have safe sanitation systems, clean water, they are easily exposed to parasitic organisms and generally spend more time outside in not very hygienic environments, compared to children and even adults in developed countries!

By practicing "Hyper-hygiene", by staying away from interacting with even a slightly "dirty environment", not only the west but even the rich in developing nations have alienated their chances at taking in microbes, parasites and infections that constantly train our immune system. This lack of training is what makes our immune system to over-react to even small pathogens, which can have devastating effects.

This is not just a western problem. It is also a problem that creeps in with upward mobility. The richer you are the more hygienic you want to become. The more indoorsy you become, the more impatient you become and pop an antibiotic instead of giving your immune system a chance to fight naturally. We need to interact with germs in the environment that have developed over millions of years so they prepare our immune system.

Now before you go and start rolling in mud like a crazy person, or start dipping your child into a garbage bin, or start a campaign to end the "Swachh Bharat" campaign please remember, personal hygiene is important, so also public hygiene, but we don't have to shun interacting with our environment. Also are we to believe now that roadside Paani Puri is just as important as Vitamin C to improve immunity. Wah!

e-mail: vikram@starofmysore.com

Low-key Basava Jayanti in Mysuru

Co-operation and Mysuru District in-Charge Minister S.T. Somashekar offered floral tributes to the statue of the 12th century Saint Basavanna at Dr. Sri Shivarathri Rajendra Circle near JSS Mahavidyapeetha in Mysuru, as part of Basava Jayanti celebrations organised by the District Administration this morning in a simple manner amidst lockdown. MP Pratap Simha, former Minister A.H. Vishwanath, MLAs S.A. Ramdas and L. Nagendra, DC Abhiram G. Sankar and City Police Commissioner Dr. Chandragupta were also present.

Mysuru-educated innovator creates respiration rate monitor for COVID patients

Mysuru, Apr. 26 (BCT)- Unique among many medical solutions offered to combat COVID-19 is the new breathing monitor for Coronavirus patients developed by a Bengaluru-based start-up RayloT and it is a matter of pride that a Kodagu-born and Mysuru-educated innovator is behind the device.

She is Ammanichanda Sanchi Poovaya, a young but experienced engineer, innovator and entrepreneur. She co-founded healthcare start-up RayloT Solutions Inc. and is the Chief Operating Officer of the start-up that has already made a mark in innovative healthcare products.

Her start-up creates innovative healthcare and baby-tech products using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet-of-Things (IoT) technologies. Very recently, Sanchi Poovaya and her other two co-founders Aardra Kannan Ambili (Chief Technology Officer) and Ranjana Nair (Co-founder and CEO) built a remote respiration monitoring system for COVID-19 patients that allows doctors to remotely monitor less critical patients while seriously ill ones get more attention.

Connected workflow sends alerts to the doctor in case of any abnormal variations in the patient's vitals. With the high effectiveness of using respiration rate as a predictive vital, early detection especially among at-risk caregivers is a possibility. "It is a non-contact, Wi-Fi enabled, affordable respiration rate monitor for Coronavirus patients that can run as mini ICU units. In its current form, RayloT will work as a mini ICU monitoring unit. The algorithms of Artificial Intelligence will allow doctors and other health professionals to track the respiration rate of multiple patients through an app

Founding Team - (L-R) Sanchi Poovaya, Ranjana Nair, Aardra Kannan Ambili

from anywhere in the world," Sanchi Poovaya said.

In a pandemic like COVID-19 where doctors are falling ill with excessive patient inflow, and the management of quarantined patients have become difficult, the device wirelessly tracks patient's respiration rate, heart rate, blood pressure and temperature. Since all the devices can be connected to one central database, using RayloT, healthcare professionals can monitor more than one lakh patients at a time continuously. By just tracking respiration rate, they will be able to intelligently categorise quarantined patients into mild, severe, and critical cases, she said.

"The idea of a remote respiration monitoring system came to us when a celebrity, who was converting his 14-room sprawling bungalow into a quarantine facility, reached out to us. His problem was remote access

22 Red raybabys on grey background

to doctors, nurses and medical equipment to fully equip his quarantine facility."

The team had to come up with a low-cost solution that could monitor the vitals of hundreds of patients at any given point of time and connect to doctors through video when the patients are moving into a severe or critical stage. "The solution also helped Government Task Forces who are monitoring huge swathes of population by providing them a single source of truth with our quarantine database," Sanchi reveals.

RayloT has been created by same team that is behind Raybaby (the world's first non-contact sleep and breathing monitor for babies. This product has won many awards and was mentioned in CNN as one of the must have home gadgets.

Ammanichanda Sanchi Poovaya completed her schooling at Good Shepherd, Ammathi in Kodagu, and JSS Public School, Mysuru. She completed her Mechanical Engineering at the National Institute of Engineering (NIE), Mysuru and MS in Mechanical Engineering from Cornell University, New York. Sanchi Poovaya is the daughter ofAmmanichanda Sunil Poovaya (ex-Merchant Navy) and Shiela Poovaya (Pattada, Betoli). They live in Hosur, Bengaluru.

JSS AHER earns 'The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings'

Mysuru, Apr. 26- The second edition of 'The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings' that have been recently released shows how Universities the world over are tackling some of humanity's most pressing problems, from eradicating poverty and promoting good health and well-being, to ensuring gender equality and taking action on the climate crisis.

More than 750 Universities from 85 Territories are included in the overall ranking. From India, 79 Higher Education Institutions participated in the ranking process. JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research (JSS AHER), Mysuru, has been ranked in the band of 201-300 in the world and becomes the 3rd in India (after IIT Kharagpur and Hindustan Institute of Technology) and 1st in Karnataka to be ranked at this global ranking system.

It is noteworthy to mention that in the said impact ranking SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-being, JSS Academy of Higher Education is ranked 20th in the world and 1st in India. In the first edition too JSS Academy had achieved such exemplary position and has been able to sustain and improve the same.

JSS Academy has been ranked among the top 50 Universities/ Higher Education Institutions in India continuously for the last four years by NIRF (National Institutional Ranking Framework) and was also ranked 4th among Private Higher Education Institutions by ARIIA (Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements) Ranking, initiative by MHRD, Government of India and re-accredited by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with A+ Grade (CGPA of 3.47 out of 4) in 2018. It has also been granted Category 1 status by UGC for having maintained higher standards of Excellence, according to a press release from JSS Academy Registrar.

Online Panel Discussion, Photo Expo marks

Birth Anniversary of 11th Panchen Lama

Bylakuppe, Apr. 26- The 25th of April, 2020 marked the 31st Birth Anniversary of His Holiness the 11th Panchen Lama Jetsun Tenzin Gedun Yeshi Thrinley Phuntsok Palsangpo, a spiritual teacher of renown for all sentient beings.

Marking the occasion, Tashi Lhunpo Cultural Society, Bylakuppe, had invited dignitaries from different places to take part in a Live Online Panel Discussion on the tragic issue of the 11th Panchen Lama yesterday.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis that has gripped the world, in the name of His Holiness the 11th Panchen Lama, Tashi Lhunpo Monastery has contributed to the COVID-19 Relief Fund of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh, a sum of Rs.3,10,000.

In addition, they are hosting an Online Photo Exhibition on two themes — First, photos depicting the unique relationship between the Dalai Lama and the Panchen Lama; The second depicts the life story and achievements of the 10th Panchen Lama.

Also, description of the photos are in three languages — Tibetan, Chinese and English, according to a press release from the Society. For online photo expo, visit: **http:// tashilhunpo.org/photo-gallery / gallery/4-online-photo-exhibition**

India's COVID fight people-driven: PM Modi

(Continued from page 1)

"Every sector has been innovating during this period... whether it be people from Aviation or Railways, they are all working to make our lives easier... they are working hard to deliver medicines and other essentials to all parts of the country. People around the world are falling back to Ayurveda and Yoga to fight COVID-19. We need to be more confident about our old teachings," he said.

PM on Holy Ramzan

"We need to wear masks... it has become a part of our daily lives... it has not happened before but this is a new reality. Our perception about masks will change very soon. The month of Ramzan has begun. Last time, during Ramzan, we never imagined that something like this will happen. We have to be more resilient and reserved during this Ramzan so that we can celebrate Eid when it comes," he added.

"We should not be overconfident. We should not presume that COVID-19 will not enter our homes, offices and colonies... we have to stay vigilant. We should ensure that we are never negligent...I appeal to you again, 'Do Gajj Doori...Bahut hai Zaroori," he said. "Be it in cities or villages, everywhere we can see people getting involved in this fight against the pandemic. While some are feeding the poor, some are making masks, others are selling their lands to raise money for this fight. Our hard-working farmers are also ensuring no one is hungry."

Digital platform

"We have created a digital platform — covidwarriors.gov.in — which around 1.15 crore people, including doctors and nurses, have joined. I urge you to join the portal and become a COVID warrior. Be it our businesses, office culture, education, medical sector... everyone is adapting to new changes in a post-Coronavirus world," he said.

"Today, we are realising every person's value — people working in our houses, working in shops, drivers... We are now realising the importance of people during this Coronavirus lockdown. This is a time, when India does not need to share medicines with other countries... and no one will even object. But still, India acted beyond its own self-interests and considered the humanitarian needs of the world. We took the responsibility to provide medicines to different countries to help everyone."

"When I speak to the leaders of other countries, they thank India and the people of India. India's Ayurveda and Yoga is also being talked about and is appreciated across the world. COVID-19 has led to many changes around us, the most prominent among them is wearing a mask. Masks have become a part of life due to Coronavirus. It doesn't mean if someone wears a mask, they are sick," the PM said.

"Another awareness that has been created due to Coronavirus is that spitting is a bad habit and poses grave dangers for health. It is "better late than never", so people should give up the habit of spitting," Modi appealed.

No vegetable shandy at M.G. Road Market

(Continued from page 1)

The Commissioner stated that drinking water and toilet facilities have been provided at the Dasara Exhibition along with other basic facilities. Buyers too have ample parking space to park their vehicles and come to the venue and shop. Police have been requested to make arrangements for both vendors and buyers to maintain social distancing.

Vendors could contact Mob: 9886344619 for registration.

There are over 60 to 70 vendors who do regular business at the M.G. Road Market usually from 5 am to around 10 am. Social distancing was a problem here during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following the Commissioner's order and the Minister's directive, the Police will barricade the M.G. Road Market area from today and ask the vendors to move to either Exhibition or Lalitha Mahal Grounds Marketplace.

Nazarbad Inspector G.N. Srikanth and his team have already begun barricading the Market and notices have been pasted at the venue, alerting the vendors and buyers. At the Exhibition, two more temporary toilets will be built to facilitate the market, MCC Development Officer Bharathkumar, who is leading the shifting operation, told *Star of Mysore*.

Kodagu relaxes lockdown rules

(Continued from page 1)

According to statement issued here, the DC said a few conditions have been laid to take up agricultural activities. Farmers can use the service of labourers in farming activities. The use of labourers from outside the State is prohibited.

The labourers should arrive for work in farmland from 6 am to 8 am and leave from the workplace between 5 pm and 7 pm. While ferrying the labourers, the owners should have a copy of the RTC or land-related documents, she added. The DC said the labourers should not be transported in goods vehicles. Social distancing should be maintained while transporting labourers in vehicles.

The labourers should be supplied with pure drinking water, food, sanitisers and soaps at the workplace. They should wear face mask while at work. If any labourer is found suffering from illness, then he should be shifted to the nearest Govt. Hospital for treatment. Stringent action will be initiated for violation of the guidelines, warned the DC.

District Minister distributes grocery kits to Muslim community families at Tilaknagar

Holy Month-long Ramzan fasting begins

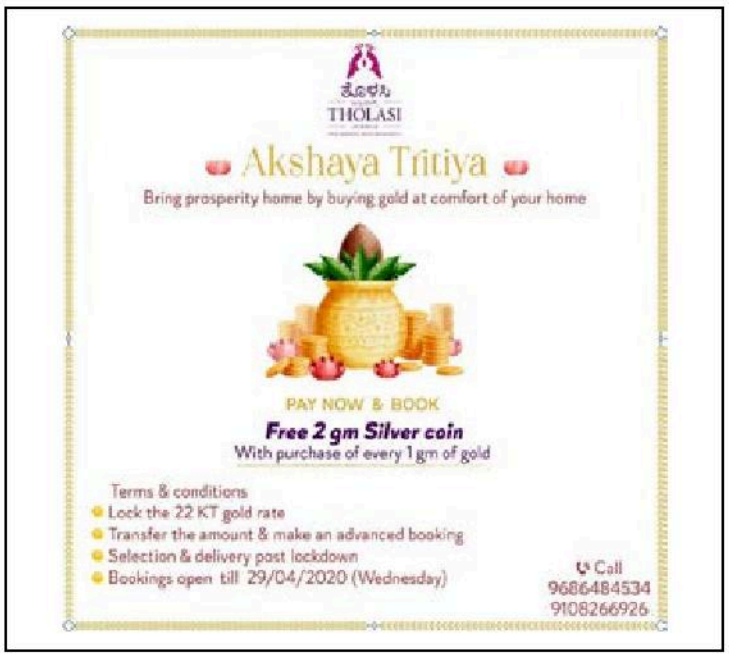
Mysuru, Apr. 26 (PM&KS)- As the Holy Month of Ramzan has begun and many financially weak Muslim community families affected due to lockdown,

District Minister S.T. Somashekar, accompanied by MP Pratap Simha, MLA L. Nagendra and others, distributed grocery kits to nearly 200 financially weak Muslim community families at a programme organised near Farooqia Dental College and Hospital in Tilaknagar here this morning.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Nagendra said that there was a request to provide grocery kits to Muslim community families, who are financially weak and as Ramzan fasting has also begun, grocery kits were distributed to 200 families.

Continuing, Nagendra said that there were plans to distribute 15,000 grocery kits in his Constituency and added that 12,000 kits have been distributed so far.

More families would be identified and groceries would be provided to them, he said. Corporator Rangaswamy, BJP City President Srivatsa and others were present.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COVID-19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	4,762
Persons who have completed 14 days' isolation	:	2,442
Persons isolated in home for 14 days	:	2,265
Persons isolated in hospital for active cases	:	51
Total samples tested	:	2,774
Samples found negative	:	2,686
Samples found positive (cumulative)	:	89
Persons cured / discharged	:	38
Death toll so far in Mysuru	:	0

MANDYA

Total positive cases in Mandya	:	16
Persons cured / discharged	:	4
Death toll so far in Mandya	:	0

KARNATAKA & INDIA

Total positive cases in Karnataka	:	503
Persons cured / discharged	:	182
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	19
Total active cases in India	:	20,177
Persons cured / discharged	:	5,913
Death toll so far in India	:	826

(Note: Some of Mysuru data are as on Apr. 25. Media bulletin of Apr. 26 unavailable)

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